



August 2012

Shaker Heights Voter

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Shaker Leaguers,

If walls could talk, my ill-kept house would tell you I'm addicted to the mysteries of Anne Perry. Set in Victorian England, her stories bring to life the plight of women of every social class in that age before modern appliances and modern views about a woman's place in society. The one shared condition between the illiterate scullery maid, who woke before dawn to blacken the stove and light the coal fire before breakfast could be prepared, and her educated mistress, who was forbidden by the prevailing social customs from reading the newspaper, lest it wound her delicate sensibilities, was that **NEITHER OF THEM COULD VOTE.**

When Charlotte Pitt tells one friend that she met another while demonstrating for the franchise for women, Christabel responds, "How very forward thinking of you! And completely unrealistic."

This was 1886 England, of course, but the same battle was being fought here, against all the odds of tradition, fear of lost power, and just plain bigotry. These days I am very grateful for my self-cleaning oven and automatic dishwasher – no scullery maid.

And in 2012 we celebrate 92 years of the hard-won right to vote our own conscience, an idea Charlotte Pitt would find radical indeed. It is an idea become reality for which we owe thanks to brave suffragettes like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, and the men who dared to support them.

August 26 is Women's Equality Day, the anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment. Take time to reflect, talk to your mothers and grandmothers about the "good old days," and remind your daughters of the precious gift they have been given – and that it has no value unless it is used!

This past June, LWVSH Board Member Linda Lehman and I were privileged to participate in LWVUS Convention 2012. Six hundred forty-nine voting delegates and numerous observers met at the Washington D.C. Hilton for 3 ½ days of workshops, caucuses, and plenary sessions. We were also treated to speakers including Eleanor Holmes Norton, Attorney General Eric Holder, Eleanor Clift, and pollster John Zogby. (Continues next page)

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AUGUST 7

**Shaker Heights
Special Election**

Don't forget to VOTE!

**Need more
information?**

Visit us online at

shakerlwv.org

EDUCATE PARTICIPATE ADVOCATE

(President's letter continued)

The body agreed to adopt concurrence with a sentencing policy that explores alternatives to imprisonment and opposes mandatory minimum sentencing for drug offenses.

In this issue of the Voter, you will find reports from our faithful observers of meetings of the Shaker Library Board, School Board, and City committees, as well as those of the increasingly interesting and important County Council sessions. This is the kind of information only the League can provide. It is invaluable when you need to make those informed decisions needed to VOTE your conscience. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts.

With best regards,

Linda Lissauer, President
LKLissauer@yahoo.com or 752-0875

Is Your Voter Registration Up to Date?

“This year is a unique year for elections in Ohio,” stated Lyn McCoy, President of the Ohio Association of Election Officials. “The Ohio Secretary of State will be sending each registered voter in the state an application to vote by mail. However, our county boards of elections must have voters’ current registration information in order to ensure voters receive their application.”

“How much has your life changed since the presidential election four years ago?” asked Carrie Davis, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio. “Have you moved, changed jobs, gotten married or divorced? Many people may no longer live at the same address as when they voted in 2008. We want to urge every single voter to update their voter registration – and please don’t wait; do it now.”

In 2006 Ohio law changed to allow every registered voter to vote by mail; previously, voters needed an excuse to vote absentee. In addition to being convenient, vote by mail also reduces the risk of a voter casting a ballot in the wrong precinct and not having it counted. If a voter chooses to vote by mail, the correct precinct ballot is automatically mailed to them. Voters will only receive a vote-by-mail application if their voter registration is current.

“Having clean voter rolls is essential to running good elections, and we are asking for every voter to help us with this task,” said McCoy. “Having up-to-date voter information not only helps us at the board of elections, it makes it easier for eligible voters to cast their ballot and be confident that it will be counted.”



CALENDAR

August

- 7 Special Election for Shaker Issue 1**
- 10 Cabinet Meeting**
- 22-28 Ohio Voter Registration Week**
- 26 Women’s Equality Day**
- 24 Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**

September

- 13 US Senate Candidates Forum, CSU**
- 14 Cabinet Meeting**
- 28 Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**

October

- 2 Vote by mail opens**
- 9 Voter Registration deadline**
- 12 Cabinet Meeting**
- 26 Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**

- **Board meetings are held on the 2nd floor of the Main Library and all LWVSH members are welcome.**

LWV-SHAKER HEIGHTS OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Linda Lissauer
VICE PRESIDENTS	Patricia Burgess, Pearl Ling
SECRETARY	Marcia Goldberg
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Susan Troia
TREASURER	Holly Wang
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Dorothy Greenslade

ELECTED DIRECTORS

**Anne Batzell, Gail Gibson, Barbara Guy, Evelyn Krent, Meryl Simon,
Terry Stoller, Susan Stechschulte, Jennifer Sullivan, Elizabeth Welch, Baird Wiehe**

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Linda Lehman, Mary Mulligan, Jan Wallace

2012 National Convention Report

This past June, LWVSH Board Member Linda Lehman and I were privileged to participate in LWVUS Convention 2012. Six hundred forty-nine voting delegates and numerous observers met at the Washington D.C. Hilton for 3 ½ days of workshops, caucuses, and plenary sessions. We were also treated to D.C.-based speakers, including D.C. delegate to the House of Representatives Eleanor Holmes Norton, Attorney General Eric Holder, journalist Eleanor Clift, and pollster John Zogby. “Capitol Steps” provided comic relief on Saturday night.

The body agreed to adopt concurrence with a sentencing policy that explores alternatives to imprisonment and opposes mandatory minimum sentencing for drug offenses.

The LWVUS Board recommended a comprehensive program to educate members and communities on the issue of campaign finance. It was also approved.

All current LWVUS positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy will be retained.

The only new study approved is a review of the 1988 LWVUS Agriculture Position. The investigation will include genetic modification, consolidation of the food industry, money in the regulatory process, and the consumer’s right to accurate and comprehensive food labeling. Details of these measures may be found at www.lwv.org.

The budget we approved included purchase and replacement of communication equipment, as well as funding for advocacy before the U.S. Congress and the Executive Branch, outreach to the general public and the media, educational projects, and fundraising. Activities in all these areas are performed by LWVUS staff, board members, task forces, and committees on our behalf. Funds are also used to offer some assistance to local leagues in these same areas. An increase in the per member payment (PMP) of \$1 was approved. LWVSH had anticipated this and it is reflected in our 2012 budget.

Both Linda and I thank you for making this experience possible. We both came home with a greater appreciation of the power of the larger League and knowledge that there are strong and creative women all across America working on many of the same issues that concern us here in Ohio.

Submitted by Linda Lissauer

LOCAL OBSERVER REPORTS

Library Board of Trustees

June 18, 2012

Present: J. Allen; C. Anderson; D. Hutt; K. McGovern; K. Miller; J. Shatten, chairman

Absent: C. Williams

Also attending: L. Dickinson, director; A. Switzer, deputy director; K. Piskac, financial officer

Jeanne Shatten called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Following the approval of the May minutes, Ms. Shatten updated the board on the strategic planning presentations.

Will Headen, security supervisor, gave the staff presentation. He, together with four officers, provides security for Main Library, protecting property and employees. Cameras can observe most of the libraries; there are also panic buttons. Most problems occur because of altercations among “kids.”

Mr. Piskac presented the month’s financial statements. Both revenue and expenses were somewhat below last year’s at this time. The financial statements were approved, as was the recommendation of employee hours. Also approved was the restoration of the Main Circulation Bank Balance, with its daily reconciliation. Approval was also given to the modification of appropriation, which enables the library to acquire one more computer (now 37 plus one). Finally, the Board renewed the copier contract for an additional year.

Presenting his director’s report, Mr. Dickinson gave the second review of the operational policies, which were approved. He also presented a first review of the collection development policy. He pointed out that the Shaker Library will receive the same amount of state dollars in 2012 and 2013 as it did in 1992 and 1993, while the state budget and inflation have grown by more than 50 percent. Shaker’s library tax is the second lowest among library districts in the county, proportionally, with 3.37 percent of property taxes going to the Library; that’s 36 percent below the county average.

The board accepted \$50 in gifts, which were appropriated to the designated funds.

The meeting adjourned shortly before 9 p.m.

Evelyn Krent, 991-0802

City Council**June 25, 2012**

Present: Mayor Earl Leiken; Council members James Brady, Brian Gleisser, Nancy Moore, Lynn Ruffner, Julianna Johnston Senturia, Earl Williams and Rob Zimmerman

Also present: William Ondrey Gruber, Interim Law Director; Jeri Chaikin, CAO

Mayor Leiken called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. The minutes of the May 7 special meeting could not be approved because some pages were missing; the minutes of the May 29 regular meeting were approved.

Council voted unanimously to confirm the mayor's appointment of Dr. Ronald G. Fountain to the Civil Service Commission to fill the unexpired term of William Gaskill from Aug. 1, 2012, to Dec. 31, 2015. Mr. Gaskill is moving out of Shaker Heights and is resigning from the commission; Dr. Fountain is currently on the city's Safety and Public Works Committee and will resign from that committee.

Public comment on agenda items: Pamela M. Pinkney of Van Aken Boulevard wanted to hear an explanation of the "Then and Now Certificate" to used to pay for HIDTA rental space and of the 2013 tax budget. She complained that city services available to Shaker residents were not available to her because she lives outside the city limits but inside the Shaker School District. The mayor explained the different taxing authorities involved and said that Robert Baker, the city's finance director, would explain the tax budget and HIDTA payment when they are taken up during the meeting.

Council then voted unanimously to take the following actions, all on an emergency basis:

Adopted the 2013 tax budget for the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2013, which will be submitted to the county budget commission. Mr. Baker explained that this budget is not really a budget, but a demonstration of the city's need "for our share of the property tax." Need is demonstrated by showing a shortfall between revenue and expenses. Shaker's tax budget shows a deficit of about \$2 million; it assumes that revenue will be the same as in 2012 and that expenses will be slightly higher.

Authorized the execution by Mr. Baker of a Then and Now Certificate in the amount of \$131,495 to reimburse Warren County for an annual payment it made in May for rental space used by Ohio HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) task forces. Shaker acts as fiduciary agent for Ohio HIDTA, and the reimbursement is coming from federal government HIDTA grant funds. Ohio's auditor is asking all public bodies to use these certificates whenever a purchase is made before a purchase order has been submitted. Police Chief D. Scott Lee said that this is not the way HIDTA would have liked to handle this payment and that HIDTA will be tightening its financial procedures. The rental space in Warren County is used mostly to store vehicles taken in drug busts.

Approved a resolution adopting the 2011 update of the Countywide All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for Cuyahoga County; this will expedite the city's eligibility for federal disaster

funds to deal with natural disasters. Even though the plan is countywide, each municipality has to enact its own legislation when the plan is updated (every five years).

Authorized the execution of a purchase agreement selling a city-owned vacant residential lot at 3574 Riedham Road to the resident living next door. She will pay \$50 for the lot and must landscape it; she must also seek Planning Commission approval for consolidation of the lots. The house that had stood on the lot was demolished by the county land bank last year and the property went through foreclosure in April 2012. This is the 10th lot the city has sold through its vacant lot program.

Amended current appropriations to reflect a \$6,140 grant from the Cleveland Foundation to pay for a summer intern in the Planning Department. The Planning Department was one of 17 host organizations selected out of more than 100 applicants, all nonprofit organizations or government agencies. The department's intern is a recent graduate of Ohio State University with a double major in city and regional planning and Russian.

Approved the application for and acceptance of a 2012 Ash Removal and Canopy Restoration Grant in the amount of \$6,250 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources through the Division of Forestry. The USDA Forest Service is providing the funds via the state to combat the Emerald Ash Borer; this is the fifth year Shaker has been working on the problem. The grant requires a match from the city.

Approved the application for and acceptance of a grant in the maximum amount of \$27,490 from the Cuyahoga County Municipal Energy Program to implement energy efficiency projects at city-owned buildings. An energy audit funded by 2009 Recovery Act (federal stimulus) funds identified cost-saving opportunities, and funds are now available for energy retrofits, including air-conditioning upgrades and programmable thermostats. No match is required.

Amended an ordinance that authorized a maintenance agreement with Time Warner Cable for the city's institutional fiber-optic network; the amendment corrects the start and end dates of the agreement. The agreement's correct billing start date is July 1, 2012, and the agreement will last for five years. The agreement approved last month was incorrectly described as lasting for only four years and the start date was unknown. Cost for this service did not change (a total of \$56,692).

Authorized execution of an amendment to a site lease agreement with New Cingular Wireless (AT&T). New Cingular wants to amend its lease of part of City Hall's monopole to upgrade and add wireless communications equipment. The lease will cover the existing antenna site at the 95-foot level and a second site at the 85-foot level that had previously been leased by a corporate predecessor. The city negotiated a lease that doubled the rent and included back rent on the lower space, where unused equipment was never removed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m., when Council went into executive session.

Marcia Goldberg, 321-1840

City Council**July 23, 2012****Present: James Brady, Lynn Ruffner, Earl Williams, Brian Gleisser, Nancy Moore, Juliana Johnston Senturia, Robert Zimmerman****Also Present: Mayor Earl Leiken, CAO Jeri Chaikin, Law Dir. William Ondrey Gruber, Economic Development Dir. Tania Menesse, Police Chief D. Scott Lee, Finance Dir. Robert Baker, Asst. Fire Chief Wayne Johnson****The minutes of special meeting of May 7, 2012, and regular meeting of June 25, 2012, were approved.****The following five ordinances were discussed and passed on an emergency basis (without further readings).**

Ms. Menesse requested authorization for a job-creation grant of \$40,000 to Juma Gallery and Boutique for costs associated with its new location in the former Malcolm Brown Gallery space at 20110 Chagrin Blvd. Ms. Menesse explained that this amount is just 17 percent of the investment already made by the owners and that the monies have been set aside by the city for the purpose of encouraging businesses like this—businesses that are high-caliber, have viable prospects and will encourage foot traffic and potential customers for neighboring businesses. The Finance Committee had previously recommended the grant. Council unanimously approved the appropriation.

Council unanimously approved an ordinance amendments requested by Mr. Baker, making appropriations to cover current expenses of the city for the year ending Dec. 31, 2012, and to adjust appropriations in the Economic Development and Housing Fund to cover the grant to Juma Gallery. The Finance Committee had previously recommended these amendments. Council unanimously approved.

Director Baker requested approval of Then and Now certificates for four Ohio HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) purchase orders that were dated after their invoice dates and top \$3,000. These include insurance for HIDTA law enforcement and public officials, the LexisNexis information program and reimbursement for Portage County Sheriff's Office overtime incurred in early 2012. Council approved the item unanimously.

Police Chief Lee requested that Council approve renewal of the Ohio HIDTA subscription with LexisNexis for information and investigation services for the coming year. The Shaker Heights Police Department is the fiscal agent for this state agency. There is no cost to the city. The funds for renewal were appropriated by Ohio HIDTA in its 2012 budget; however, the purchase order date was after the invoice date. Hence the suspension of rules to approve the renewal on first reading and to ensure continued services of LexisNexis. The request was approved unanimously.

Mr. Gruber requested amendments to the Codified Ordinances that will keep Shaker Heights consistent with state laws regarding general offenses and traffic codes revised by the General Assembly over the past year. The city will then be able to enforce these laws in Municipal Court and the city, rather than the state, will retain the fines. Council approved the measure unanimously.

Shaker resident Sara Schiavoni of Morley Road was recognized and stated that she has reviewed the city budget, and questioned the \$6 million in lost revenue. She also questioned the priorities set by the city in the event of failure of Issue 1 and labeled the recent communiqué by the City as “scare tactics.” Mayor Leiken responded by explaining the loss over time from both the estate tax and the state’s Local Government Fund. Discretionary cuts in expenditures, he said, would fall far short of the needed budget reduction. The message recently sent to residents was in response to many questions about what will happen if the tax is defeated at the polls.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Linda Lissauer, 752-0875

Finance Committee

July 16, 2012

Present: Council members: Jim Brady, Rob Zimmerman, Nancy Moore, Earl Williams; citizen members Marty Kolb, William Toomajian, Trent Meyerhoffer

Also present: Mayor Earl Leiken; Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer; Robert Baker, Finance Director; Tania Menesse, Economic Development Director; Kevin Jacobs, Fire Chief

The meeting commenced at 8:05 a.m. Minutes of the regular meeting of May 21, 2012, were approved.

Regular Agenda Items:

- Approved authorizing a job-creation grant in the maximum amount of \$40,000 to Juma Gallery and Boutique at 20100-20106 Chagrin Blvd. (this involves authorizing an appropriation in the amount of \$40,000 from the Economic Development and Housing Reserve Fund). Erica Weiss, artist and businesswoman, is the owner of this successful retail establishment in Little Italy. She would like to expand the business and size of her gallery This grant falls in line with grant parameters used to evaluate Lucy’s Sweet Surrender’s grant: It is an established business with a significant reputation that will help the city attract and retain residents and businesses; the business will serve as a catalyst for continued redevelopment in the Van Aken District; the business owner is making a considerable investment in the project; and the project is leveraging other city or county loan programs.

- Approved authorizing the appropriation of \$2,500 for Fire Department equipment and training from the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) EMS Grant (which totaled \$2,500). This grant is an annual award and a non-matching grant, and it aids the fire department in procuring up-to-date equipment for all ALS squads and training programs.

Mayor Leiken discussed sending a letter to all residents stating the need for the proposed tax rate increase and detailing specific actions that would need to be taken if the tax increase does not pass. This information is being sent in response to questions from residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 a.m.

Jennifer Sullivan, 491-8883

COUNTY OBSERVER REPORTS

County Council Regular Meeting: May 22, 2012

Observer: Lesley Hahn

This report contains member observations and selected highlights of a meeting of the Cuyahoga County Council and is not an official statement by any League of Women Voters in the county. For the official disposition of all agenda items, consult the Cuyahoga County Council website at council.cuyahogacounty.us

I. Introduction:

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Council President C. Ellen Connally with all Council Members present. Meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m. In the Public Comment session Ken Lanci, candidate last year for the County Executive position, spoke as the grandparent of an adopted child and urged more funding for county agencies who advocate for young children. County Executive Ed FitzGerald reported that he attended an informative meeting of Ohio county executives. He asked all to note the topping off of the east bank office building. He said the discussions about the allocation of Horseshoe Casino tax revenues have been civil, as was his meeting with the Mayors' Association. (See Note, below, regarding the former.)

II. Business Transacted:

***The 5-Year Economic Development Plan Annual Update has been submitted to Council.**

*** Seven resolutions regarding amendments to the Cuyahoga County Charter were read and referred to the Committee of the Whole. Councilman Miller explained that, although the Charter Review Committee would be convened in September and may propose revisions to be on the ballot in 2013, certain amendments could be approved by Council in time to appear on the ballot in November, 2012, and a special election in 2013 might be avoided. Council, meeting as the Committee of the Whole, will meet at 1:00 p.m. on June 26, 2012 to discuss Charter Review.**

*** An Ordinance to adopt an Equity Plan for Cuyahoga County was sent to committee with no explanation; however, a Plain Dealer article (6/14, page B-3) describes the Plan as a panel of civic leaders who will have the task of making sure that minorities are well represented in county hiring, contracts and social services.**

***A Resolution to amend the 2012-2013 Biennial Operating Budget was passed under suspension of the rules. Councilman Miller moved for adoption, saying most of the revisions were routine. However, Councilman Jones questioned the return of money from the re-entry program, expressing concern that the amount returned, \$143,000, was not utilized for its intended purpose. Council Germana stated that Office of Budget & Management was reviewing aged contracts and will go on to review on-going contracts. Many contracts are "in an amount not to exceed," so there may be funds to be returned to the County. He said that the message is that returning funds will not prejudice the agency or company making the return. It was also noted that the County Prosecutor's Delinquent Tax Collection had collected \$5 M. for the County Land Bank. The Land Bank will have received \$12 M. this year.**

***Several resolutions for road resurfacing/reconstruction were sent to committee including \$1.5 M. for Solon Road, \$2.6 M. for Pleasant Valley Road, \$4 M. for replacement of Rockside Road Bridge in Independence, and \$3.5 M. for Snow/Rockside Road.**

* Other projects sent to committee included: \$2.2 M. to Terrace Construction for repairs in various county sewer districts, authorization of \$21 M. mortgage revenue bonds for the Wiggins Place Project at Menorah Park Center for Senior Living, an agreement with Mayfield Village for participation in the County's Benefits Regionalization Program, the Annual Tax Budget, including the Cuyahoga County Library Budget for the year 2013, awards to providers for the Shelter and Placement Program, the largest of which went to Carrington Youth Academy (\$1.6 M.) , \$1 M. for transitional housing services for homeless men, awards totaling \$3.65 M. to twenty providers under the Cuyahoga OP-TIONS for Elders, and awards totaling \$1 M. to two providers for employment related services.

* Most of the above committee referrals were made without comment. However, an award to eight providers for residential treatment services for the Youth and Family Community Partnership Program totaling \$2 M. for the period 1/1/2012 to 12/31/2013 was closely questioned because of the amount of time that had already elapsed without Council approval. County Executive Ed FitzGerald commented on the bureaucracy of the process but agreed that the paperwork often doesn't come in on a timely basis. The Juvenile Court Administrator spoke to the issue, saying that her department was acutely aware of the problem but that they had made remarkable progress this year in making vendors and providers aware of requirements.

* An award to fourteen providers of residential treatment services in the total amount of \$2.25 M. prompted questions regarding just one provider, which was to receive \$720,000. Council members questioned why some juveniles had to be sent so far away to Glen Mills Schools in Philadelphia. Council was informed that this institution was successful in dealing with hard to place juveniles who were older, behind educationally and with high crime rates. Only juveniles with no family ties were sent there, where thirty vocational tracks were available to them. The number of juveniles that were placed with ODYS has decreased from 425 to 123 presently.

* Lastly, Council approved an ordinance establishing a Department of Information Technology, with amendments approved by Councilman Greenspan regarding composition of the Technology Advisory Committee. This ordinance renames and reorganizes various IT departments and personnel and places them under the direction of Jeff Mowry.

III. Notes:

The Plain Dealer on 6/13, page B-1 carried an article about a dispute between County Executive Ed FitzGerald and Councilwoman Sunny Simon on distribution of Horseshoe Casino taxes. Whereas FitzGerald has proposed to use all the money for downtown development, Simon argued that the suburbs should receive something because they have been hardest hit by state cuts. She proposed that municipalities could apply for grants with preference given for collaborative projects. Casino revenue taxes will be discussed again at the June 26 Committee of the Whole meeting.

County Council Regular Meeting: June 26, 2012**Observer: Janice Patterson**

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I. Introduction

The Council convened at 5:05 PM with all members except Julian Rogers present. The meeting ended at 6:35 PM. Previous to that, they met at 1 PM as Committee of the Whole to debate the possible use of casino revenue and to discuss 7 potential Charter amendments sent up to the full Council from the Rules Committee. At 4:30 PM there was also a Work Session at which Council members heard an update on the Medical Mart - Convention Center project. See section IV below.

II. Business Transacted

*An ordinance clarifying the duties and powers of the Agency of Inspector General was approved on third reading, after being amended to add a phrase describing the agency's relationship to the Office of Internal Auditing.

* Four resolutions were approved upon first reading under suspension of the rules. One urged the U.S. Congress and the Ohio General Assembly to support, fund and build a state veteran's home in northeast Ohio. Another one authorized an agreement with the Ohio Attorney General's office for collection of delinquent debt owed to the Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts. (It is estimated that \$64 million is due, accrued since 2002.) The remaining two were routine budget amendments providing transfers and additional appropriations.

* Thirteen second-reading resolutions were adopted under suspension of the rules. Among them were:

- Two appointing citizens to the Gateway Economic Development Corporation and the Western Reserve Resource Conservation and Development Council.
- Two road-related ones totaling \$4.6M (resurfacing of Solon Road and reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road) that reflect a new policy for paving that does not require municipal funds.
- Two revenue-generating awards for food service operations at the Justice Center.
- One adding \$1.5M and three years to a warehouse storage lease.
- One adding \$984,000 to contracts with three residential care and day treatment facilities (Dept. of Children and Family Services).
- One establishing a county sewer district in the City of Shaker Heights.
- Another awarding \$1M to two firms for professional services related to Human Resources Department software.
- A total of \$2.25M for juvenile court placements and shelters with three centers.
- Two involving state-required actions – to adopt the Annual Tax Budget and to make the necessary Veterans Service Commission levy.

* Seven resolutions were read for the first time and referred to committees. Committee reports were made on three resolutions that then received second readings.

* Four additional Charter amendments were introduced to Council in report form, not as formal readings: one by the Clerk of Courts (dealing with revenue from court costs), one by Council member Jack Schron (putting the 2-year budget into the Charter), and one by Council member Sunny Simon (clarifying the duties of the Law Director and the Prosecutor). These three new proposals will have to undergo the same vetting process as the 7 amendments already in the hopper (see below).

III. Notes

* Clerk of Council Jeanne Schmotzer is on leave until September. The deputy clerk, Nikimi S. Barnhill, is serving Council in her absence.

* A 35-minute briefing on the status of the Cleveland Medical Mart and Convention Center project by Jim Bennett, Senior Vice President, Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc. (MMP) and Jeff Appelbaum of Thompson Hine LLP preceded the formal Council meeting. . Their PowerPoint presentations (available on-line at the Council's home page) declared the project as on time and under budget, described workforce characteristics and outlined the status of meeting room and exhibit hall bookings to date.

IV: Progress on Charter Amendments (observed/reported by J.P. and L.M, joint observers)

As of June 26, the Council had originally received eleven proposed charter amendments. Ten of the 11 have now been discussed in Rules Committee. The eleventh, just proposed by the Court of Common Pleas, will be discussed in Rules Committee at 11 AM on July 10. Of the ten, three have either been referred to the Charter Review Commission or withdrawn, and the seven remaining were discussed by the Committee of the Whole this afternoon. As reported above: Two even newer proposed amendments were circulated at this evening's meeting. Those which ultimately receive Council approval before 9/07/12 will go to County voters on the November ballot. Several of the 7 timely amendments discussed today are undergoing lively debate. Here's what each of the 7 does:

- * Changes the way Council and Executive vacancies are to be filled
- * Names the exceptions to the rule that all Council actions be reviewed and signed by the Executive
- * Distinguishes between the 3-member Board of Revision and their various Hearing Boards
- * Changes the appointing authority for the Human Resource Commission
- * Changes the term of office of the appointed Director of Internal Auditing
- * Clarifies who has the authority to lay off or transfer Executive Branch departmental employees.
- * Creates and organizes a new Department of Finance and Operations, under the Fiscal Officer and containing not only the Fiscal Office but also the functions of the Treasurer and the Department of Purchasing.

Two large points of discussion promise to be whether each rises to the level of urgency that it needs to pre-empt the 2012/13 Charter Review process, and similarly whether any might be so substantive that it would be better referred to Charter Review. The Rules Committee recommended the above 7 as both necessary and non-substantive, but some Council members are questioning that. The next full-Council discussion of these 7 will be at 1 PM, July 10th. The 3 additional ones will require some improvised scheduling.

County Council Regular Meeting: July 10, 2012

Observer: Susan Jankite

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Introduction.

The council convened at 5:02 p.m. with all members present. The meeting recessed at approximately 6:00 p.m. when the Council went into Executive Session to discuss Agenda Item #12. Mariah Krenshaw spoke during the Public Comment Related to Agenda segment. She requested that the Council investigate the Department of Children and Family Services, particularly nine social workers. She is a former foster caregiver and was referred to Rick Werner by Council. Council President Connally recognized the Council of Arts and Culture and announced it was the County Executive's birthday. The County Executive confirmed and announced updates on pay for success and a thirteen county study of the Turnpike.

II. Business Transacted.

Several proposed Charter amendment resolutions were considered for first reading and referral to the Committee of the Whole. Approved. Among these were:

- A resolution sorting out and clarifying the Law Director and Prosecutor's duties;
- A resolution making official the County's switch to a biennial budget;
- A resolution allowing appointment of the Clerk of Courts by the judges;
- Other resolutions included those for various public works and improvement projects, contract services with the social service agencies, various economic and workforce development projects

Several Ordinances were considered for third reading. Passed. Among these were:

- An Ordinance establishing and providing for administration of an education assistance program for the purposes of increasing the number of skilled workers in the County's workforce;
- An Ordinance establishing a Veteran's Service Fund that would devote all unspent funds to the Veterans Service Commission to provide workforce development to Cuyahoga County veterans;

-- An Ordinance providing various changes to the Non-Bargaining Classification Plan. This involved Public Works employees and created two new positions of Fleet Manager and Fleet Supervisor. This was adopted.

Two Ordinances were considered for first or second reading and referred to committee for additional work. Approved.

-- An Ordinance providing the five-year Economic Development Plan required by the Charter;

-- An amendment to a previous Ordinance which enacted the Contracting and Purchasing procedures

—Several resolutions were considered for second reading under suspension of rules. Approved.

-- A contract amendment for implementation of energy conservation measures in various county buildings;

-- Others: those for public works projects, an economic development loan, and the issuance of Mortgage Revenue Bonds for the Menorah Park Center Wiggins Place Project.

The Council then went into Executive Session for consideration of a resolution for first reading adoption under suspension of rules and Executive Session. This concerned the report containing findings and recommendations of fact finder Jared Simmer. This regarded negotiations between the County and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for a collective bargaining agreement. This covers about one-hundred and thirty-nine employees classified as Protective Services Officers at the Sheriff's Department. These are the county employees who usually staff the screening stations at the courthouses and various county buildings (including the Board of Elections, Jane Edna Hunter Building, etc.)

Notes.

There was a lengthy Committee of the Whole session before the regular meeting, which this observer could not attend. It dealt with those 7 proposed Charter amendments (not the 3 new ones on 1st reading referral reported above) undergoing lengthy full-Council review.

[Ed. note: Three of the 7 were withdrawn, to be referred later this year to a Charter Review Commission for more thought. They are --

-0097: Vacancy Appointments vs Special Elections. (Rather contentious!)

-0098: List of Council Actions which do not require the Executive approval. (Not urgent)

-0104 Reorganization plan folding the Treasurer & Purchasing Dept into a unified Fiscal Office. (No sponsors of this amendment attended or advocated for its passage. Possibly controversial.)

The remaining 4 of the 7 were sent along on track for 2nd reading on July 24. The Committee of the Whole still expects more debate and even possibly further tweaking. The vote here reflects that Council feels these amendments are both appropriate and urgent enough to go to the voters before the Charter Review Commission begins its more thorough deliberations.

- 0099: Clarification of "Board of Revision" and its "Hearing Boards." (Republican Council members tried to amend it to preserve minority political party representation on the BoR, but the amendment failed, 8-3. They subsequently opposed the amendment, which passed, 8-3.)
- 0100: Council Appointment, rather than Executive Appointment of Human Resource Commission members. (Whole Council agreed, although opposed by the absent Executive.)
- 0101: Staggered Terms for Internal Audit Committee members & Director. (No opposition.)
- 0103: "Who can/can't bump whom?" idea. (There was 10-1 agreement for now to pass it along, but nobody understands it or seems to care much. May die by Council on next reading, unless explained by the Administration -- specially why it rises to Charter-level importance.)]

County Council Regular Meeting: July 24, 2012

Observer: Marcia Goldberg

This report contains member observations and selected highlights of a meeting of the Cuyahoga County Council and is not an official statement by any League of Women Voters in the county. For the official disposition of all agenda items, consult the Cuyahoga County Council website at council.cuyahogacounty.us

I. Introduction

Council convened at 5:05 p.m. with all members present except Mr. Greenspan, whose absence was excused. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. A Committee of the Whole meeting had been held at 3 p.m. to discuss possible uses of casino revenue. No decisions were made, but Laura Johnston, the PD reporter, said Council's discussion showed they want to hold off spending any casino revenue for a year and would not go along with Mr. FitzGerald's plan to invest all the money downtown.

The traditional moment of silence was devoted to the shooting victims in Aurora, Colo. Citizen Comments drew an Olmsted Township trustee to the microphone, who complained about the short notice the trustees had received before the county closed the Fitch Road Service Yard. She said that her community's safety and economic development would suffer.

Mr. FitzGerald made two comments: (1) The county's \$1 million in Energy Efficiency Block Grant funds, which could have been retained by the county, will instead be used for projects in 13 communities in the county. He said this was another example of the county's "trying to ameliorate the financial situation" of cities here. (2) He supports Council's proposal to create a program that will give a 2 percent advantage to local firms seeking contracts with the county (the Business Preference Program ordinance on first reading—see below), but he would also like to see a formal list of contractors who would not be allowed to seek county contracts—contractors implicated in the county corruption scandal.

II. Business Transacted

Three Charter amendment resolutions sponsored by Council members were on second reading and will be on third reading for passage at Council's August meeting. Ms. Connally made a point of saying that the Ohio constitution allows Council to propose charter amendments. The amendments would: (1) Eliminate the required party balance of the Board of Revision and change the means of appointing its members.; (2) Require Council rather than the County Executive to appoint members of the Human Resource Commission; and (3) Stagger the terms of the County Audit Commit-

tee and the Director of Internal Auditing so those terms do not match up with the term of the County Executive.

One other proposed Charter amendment on second reading was referred back to the Committee of the Whole for more discussion. This amendment, proposed by Mr. FitzGerald rather than Council, would clarify the executive's authority over the employment of personnel. This is the amendment that Mr. Miller has said would eliminate the "bumping rights" of an employee whose job is eliminated but who could then "bump" an employee with less seniority. [All proposed Charter amendments can be read in full on County Council's website.]

Council approved separate agreements with Mayfield Village and the Village of Glenwillow to participate in the Cuyahoga County Benefits Regionalization Program until the end of 2014. A similar agreement with the Village of Highland Hills was on first reading and referred to the Human Resources Committee. These are moves toward the regionalization of public employee benefit packages, but Ms. Conwell said the program does not affect agreements with employees with union contracts.

Council also approved various funding resolutions, some covering 10 providers of youth training programs (\$2.7 million), placement services for children (\$75 million), emergency assistance services for families (\$700,000), group healthcare benefits with Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, pre-employment screening services for Ohio Works First applicants (\$533,000) and the resurfacing of various roads including East 9th and Ontario streets downtown. The federal government covers 80 percent of the cost; the county is picking up the 20 percent Cleveland would be responsible for; this is another case of the county helping the city, Mr. Jones explained.

A five-year Economic Development Plan was adopted, in accordance with the Charter. Larry Benders, the county's ED director, explained that the plan calls for the creation and retention of 2,000 jobs over the next year and that the plan's implementation and the department's activities will be an "exercise in transparency."

An ordinance adding a Council member to the county's Contracts and Purchasing Board was approved unanimously following third reading. Council members think this addition will help the county maximize outside funding.

Among numerous items referred to committee after first reading was an ordinance establishing a Cuyahoga County-Based Business Preference Program. This is the program Mr. Fitzgerald referred to in his comments; the idea is to show that the new government is always thinking about how it can help local businesses.

Two Human Resources ordinances on second reading will be considered once more next month. One would adopt an Equity Plan (relating to equity in hiring and promotion), and the other would prohibit inquiries about criminal convictions of applicants for county jobs (with stated exceptions), until after the applicant has been offered conditional employment. This is intended to help people with a criminal past get jobs.